

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 11747 141931Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 TRSE-00 /071 W
-----056137 150209Z /70

R 141533Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7255
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY DHAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 11747

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORS, PINT, EG
SUBJECT: TAKFIR

REF: CAIRO 11583

1. EGYPTIAN PRESS HAS CONTINUED DEVOTE CONSIDERABLE
ATTENTION TO ATONEMENT AND HEGIRA SOCIETY (TAKFIR).
JULY 13 PAPERS ALLEGED SOCIETY'S PLANNED SABOTAGE WOULD
HAVE BEEN MOST DESTRUCTIVE OPERATION IN EGYPTIAN HISTORY.
ADDITIONAL LISTS OF FUTURE TARGETS AND VICTIMS REPORTEDLY
UNCOVERED, INCLUDING AL-AHRAM EDITOR IN CHIEF.

2. ACCORDING PRESS, TWO LEADERS OF ALEXANDRIA BRANCH
OF TAKFIR, ARRESTED JULY 12 WERE INVOLVED IN 1974 ATTACK
ON MILITARY TECHNICAL COLLEGE. THEY WERE ACQUITTED AND
JOINED TAKFIR. PRESS MAINTAINS, THEY RECENTLY SPLIT
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 11747 141931Z

WITH SHUKRI AND FORMED ANOTHER RIGHT-WING ISLAMIC GROUP
CALLED "THE EMOTIONALLY DETACHED ORGANIZATION" (MUN'AZILA
SHU'URIYYA). (COMMENT: FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF THIS GROUP.)

3. JULY 14 MUSSAWER CLAIMS THAT SHUKRI WAS ISLAMIC
LIBERATION PARTY (ILP) EMIR FOR UPPER EGYPT AND IN-
HERITED WHAT REMAINED OF THIS ORGANIZATION IN EGYPT AFTER ITS

LEADERS WERE HANGED. AT SAME TIME, MEMBERSHIP OF FORMER IKHWANIS IN TAKFIR CONTINUING RECEIVE PROMINENT ATTENTION, WITH NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS COMING FORWARD TO TESTIFY ON THEIR RELATIONS WITH SHUKRI. ALL ACCOUNTS FOCUS ON SEPARATION BETWEEN IKHWAN AND TAKFIR.

4. IN ADDITION TO ITS EGYPTIAN ACTIVITIES, PAPERS SAY TAKFIR BRANCHES FORMED IN IRAQ, KUWAIT AND SAUDI ARABIA, WITH TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF 150 (SIC). KUWAITI AUTHORITIES REPORTEDLY COOPERATING WITH EGYPTIAN SECURITY RE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES WHICH, INTER ALIA, INVOLVED FUND RAISING AND PAMPHLETEERING.

5. TOTAL NUMBER THOSE ARRESTED THUS FAR UNCLEAR. SOME NAMES HAVE BEEN MENTIONED SEVERAL TIMES BY PRESS AND THERE UNDOUBTEDLY DOUBLE COUNTING. POLICE HAVE ANNOUNCED COMPLETION OF INTERROGATION IN 148 CASES. AFP PUTS NUMBER INCARCERATED AT 330.

6. SECURITY FORCES HAVE REPORTEDLY DISCOVERED SEVERAL TAKFIR TRAINING SITES WHERE MEMBERS GIVEN INSTRUCTION IN MACHINE-GUN/PISTOL FIRE AND USE OF EXPLOSIVES. SITES LOCATED IN PYRAMIDS AREA, BENI SUEF, BAHRIYYA OASIS, BULAK, AND IN REAR OF ABSSIYA AIR FORCE HOSPITAL. THOUSANDS OF ROUNDS OF EXPENDED AMMUNITION AND NUMBER OF WEAPONS RECOVERED. ALLEGED TAKFIR PURPOSE WAS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 11747 141931Z

FORM "ARMED BATTALION" TO CONDUCT SABOTAGE CAMPAIGN.

7. PRESS SAYS SECURITY FORCES HAVE PLACED ALL ROADS LEADING TO CAIRO, SUEZ, ISMAILIA AND RED SEA, AS WELL AS PORTS AND AIRFIELDS UNDER "FULL CONTROL" TO PREVENT ESCAPE OF SOCIETY MEMBERS. (EMBOFFS NOTED CHECKPOINT IN OPERATION ON ALEX-CAIRO DESERT ROAD EVENING JULY 13.)

8. EFFORTS TO UNDERCUT SOCIETY'S POTENTIAL APPEAL CONTINUE. TYPICAL OF THESE WAS MILITARY PROSECUTOR'S SARCASTIC PUBLIC OBSERVATION THAT TAKFIR'S PRINCIPAL IDEOLOGIST IS 24 YEARS OLD, UNEMPLOYED, SECONDARY SCHOOL GRAUDATE. IN SAME VEIN, PRESS REPORTS TAKFIR'S TERROR WEAPON (DUE TO BE EXPLODED IN CROWDED CINEMAS, BUS DEPOTS, ETC.) WAS ADAPTED FROM ISRAELI DESIGN.

9. COMMENT: PRESS TREATMENT, UNDOUBTEDLY GOV'T INSPIRED, APPEARS DESIGNED TO GIVE IMPRESSION: (A) THAT TAKFIR MORE ABSURD THAN DANGEROUS; (B) THAT MAJORITY ITS MEMBERS MISGUIDED YOUTHS FOLLOWING EVIL LEADERS; AND, (C) THAT SECURITY FORCES WERE, AND ARE, ON TOP OF SITUATION WHICH, IN ANY CASE, NEVER PRESENTED SIGNIFICANT

DANGER AS RESULT OF POLICE PENETRATION OF SOCIETY.

10. STEADY DRUMBEAT OF NEWS STORIES TOGETHER WITH
EXTENSIVE STRAIGHT ISLAMIC PROGRAMMING ON TV INDICATE
DEEPER GOE CONCERN. IF EVEN 50 PERCENT OF NEWS ACCOUNTS
TRUE, THE REVEAL A CLANDESTINE ORGANIZATION EXISTENT
THROUGHOUT COUNTRY, WELL ARMED, AND ENJOYING APPARENTLY
AMPLE FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND FREEDOM OF ACTION. TRAINING
CAMPS NOTED PARA 6 ABOVE VERY REMINISCENT SIMILAR
ESTABLISHMENTS MAINTAINED EARLIER BY IKHWAN AND RAISE
QUESTION HOW IT POSSIBLE ORGANIZE THESE WITHOUT ATTRACTING
OFFICIAL NOTICE. THERE HAS BEEN NO REPORT OF TAKFIR
INFILTRATION OF MILITARY OTHER THAN CONTAINED REFTTEL.
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PAGE 04 CAIRO 11747 141931Z

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